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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TITLE: TO INVESTIGATE THE POTENTIAL OF USING BEETLE ODOURS
TO DETER SLUGS IN VINING PEAS

THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

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AMENDED CLAIMS

1. A method of repelling or deterring slugs comprising the steps of:
obtaining naturally occurring secretions from a ground beetle; and
applying the beetle secretions to an application surface.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the application surface comprises at least a portion of a plant.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the plant is a pea plant.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the beetle secretions include at least one acid selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, tiglic acid, crotonic acid, formic acid and acetic acid.
5. A slug repellent comprising:
water; and
at least one acid selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, tiglic acid, crotonic acid, formic acid and acetic acid.
6. The slug repellent of claim 5, wherein said at least one acid comprises methacrylic acid

7. The slug repellent of claim 6, wherein said at least one acid further comprises tiglic acid.
8. The slug repellent of claim 6 wherein said at least one acid further comprises crotonic acid.
9. The slug repellent of claim 5, wherein said at least one acid comprises formic acid.
10. The slug repellent of claim 5, wherein said at least one acid comprises acetic acid.
11. The slug repellent of claim 10, wherein said at least one acid further comprises crotonic acid.
12. The slug repellent of claim 5, wherein said at least one acid comprises tiglic acid.
13. The use of a composition to deter slugs, the composition comprising at least one acid selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, tiglic acid, crotonic acid, formic acid and acetic acid.
14. The use as claimed in claim 13, wherein the composition is used to deter slugs in plants.
15. The use as claimed in claim 14, wherein the composition is used to deter slugs in pea plants.